Appendix VIII.

[Vide answer to question No. 2011 asked by Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 27th March 1929, page 978 supra.]

Letter from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement), No. Ref. H. 2113/27-1, dated 29th March 1927.

The Board begs to address Government for the restoration to Class III of the Kavuthimalai, Kannamandai, Radhapuram and Tippakadu reserves in the South Vellore Forest Division which have been transferred to Class I in G.O. No. 244, Development, dated 18th February 1927.

2. The classification to be assigned to these reserves was the subject of correspondence between the Board and the Chief Conservator of Forests. The Chief Conservator stated that he had transferred the reserves to Class I where they should remain until all the fuel coupes in them were cut when they might be placed in Class III. The Board pointed out to the Chief Conservator that his order was not in consonance with the policy of Government which was that the trained energies of the Forest Department should not be dissipated on minor fuel and grazing reserves, but on a further communication from him explaining that the reserves were transferred to Class I on the recommendation of the Local Committee and that they were supplying the Tiruvannamalai town with fuel, the Board agreed to their transfer to Class I. The Land Revenue Commissioner, however, resolved to inspect the reserves personally and did so recently. A copy of his inspection notes is enclosed.

3. The reason that actuated the Local Committee and the Chief Conservator in recommending the transfer of the reserves to Class I was that they were fuel reserves supplying Tiruvannamalai town and could not therefore be handed over to panchayats without endangering the fuel supply. The Board now finds that the main supply for Tiruvannamalai town comes from Radhapuram, that the supply from the other reserves is negligible. It is also clear that panchayatdars can quite easily work the fuel coupes on the same rotation as that now adopted by the Forest Department and that panchayats willing to undertake the responsibility can easily be formed. There is little doubt that the supply to Tiruvannamalai town will not be interfered with in the least by handing over these reserves to panchayat management. The opposition came from the members of the co-operative society who had been making a profit out of the leases of fuel coupes and who therefore moved the local committee to make their recommendation to place the reserves in Class I. . . In the circumstances the Board requests that Government may be pleased to retransfer the reserves to Class III.

[27th March 1929

Inspection Notes.

I have visited Tiruvannamalai and gone into the matter of the transfer of these four reserves (originally placed in Class III by Mr. Whitehead) to Class I. The present position is as follows :—

Fuel coupes are being worked in all these four reserves 'Kavuthimalai, Kannamandai, Radhapuram and Tippakadu but the Forest Department have leased the coupes to a co-operative society. With the exception of Tippakadu the lease works at Rs. 4-8-0 per acre. Radhapuram is however fetching Rs. 7-8-0 per acre. The amount of supply by Tippakadu, Kannamandai and Kavuthimalai to the Tiruvannamalai town is at present negligible. Radhapuram is giving the main supply. The coupes are being worked on a 30 years' rotation and both the ranger and the deputy tahsildar are of opinion that the panchayatdars would be perfectly well able to work these coupes on the same rotation. . . I understand that panchayats could easily be formed, willing to undertake this responsibility. If the problem is how to supply Tiruvannamalai with fuel there seems to be little doubt that the supply would not be interfered with in the least by handing over these reserves to the panchayat management. I understand from the local officers that the opposition came from the co-operative society who have been making a good thing out of these leases and who did not think that the terms offered by the panchayatdars would be so favourable and who therefore moved the local committee to make their recommendation. This year, however, from the 1st of April the Forest Department have decided to sell these coupes by auction and it is probable that the co-operative society will not get such a favourable rate and will not be so keen to keep out the panchayatdars. I think it is a mistaken policy to transfer these to Class I.

H. A. B. Vernon,
Commissioner of Land Revenue.

Appendix IX.

[Vide answer to question No. 2035 asked by Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council, held on the 27th March 1929, page 992 supra.]

South Vellore.

Class I.—The Committee accepts Mr. Whitehead's classification, but makes two suggestions :—

(1) That *Periyamalai* be brought under the forest village system.

(2) That in *Mulakad* the reserve forest boundary might be shifted to the west at the part where the public right of way passes through the reserve, should difficulties arise about cattle straying off the path into the reserve.

Class II.—*Parvadamalai* should go into Class III.

Annamalai is now under the forest village system and should be put into Class I.

Padipalem is in South Arcot.